

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 07291 241923Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00  
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /059 W  
-----241925Z 026269 /43

O R 241900Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7833

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

USNATO 4931

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PEKING

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 7291

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM

1. SUMMARY: CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE HELD A PLENUM MAY 24.  
PODGORSKY WAS REMOVED FROM THE POLITBURO, AND  
KATYSHEV FROM THE SECRETARIAT. K.V. RUSAKOV WAS  
APPOINTED TO THE SECRETARIAT. BREZHNEV DELIVERED A  
SPEECH ENDORSING THE DRAFT FOR A NEW CONSTITUTION  
WHICH THE PLENUM APPROVED. END SUMMARY.

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2. THE KEY CADRE CHANGE AT THE ONE-DAY CPSU  
PLENUM WAS THE REMOVAL OF N.V. PODGORSKY FROM  
THE POLITBURO. WHILE PODGORSKY IS STILL HEAD  
OF STATE (AS CHAIRMAN OF THE PRESIDIUM OF THE  
SUPREME SOVIET, HE WILL PROBABLY LOSE THIS  
POSITION TOO AT THE SUPREME SOVIET SESSION

SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 16. WHILE IT IS POSSIBLE THAT PODGORNY'S DEPARTURE WAS FOR REASONS OF HEALTH OR AGE (HE IS 74) WE NOTE THAT THE LANGUAGE "RELIEVED NIKOLAY PODGORNIY OF HIS DUTIES" AS POLITBURO MEMBER DOES NOT HAVE ANY OF THE QUALIFIERS (SUCH AS "IN CONNECTION WITH GOING ON PENSION") THAT WOULD HAVE STRENGTHENED THE IMPRESSION THAT HE HAD GONE OF HIS OWN FREE WILL.

3. WHATEVER THE REASON FOR PODGORNIY'S DEPARTURE, IT OPENS UP A SLOT IN THE POLITBURO, AND ALSO WILL PRESUMABLY OPEN A SLOT FOR ANOTHER POLITBURO MEMBER TO BECOME HEAD OF THE SUPREME SOVIET PRESIDIUM. IT IS TOO EARLY TO TELL HOW THE SUCCESSION ISSUE WILL SHAPE UP. THIS WILL BECOME CLEARER IF, AS WE EXPECT, A NEW CHAIRMAN OF THE PRESIDIUM IS IN FACT APPOINTED AT THE SUPREME SOVIET SESSION.

4. THE OTHER CADRE CHANGES WERE THE REMOVAL OF K.F. KATUSHEV FROM THE SECRETARIAT "IN CONNECTION WITH HIS DUTIES IN CEMA" AND THE ELEVATION OF K.V. RUSAKOV TO THE SECRETARIAT (NO MENTION OF USTINOV'S POSITION IN THE SECRETARIAT WAS MADE.) KATUSHEV'S REMOVAL IS NOT TOO SURPRISING; WHEN HE WAS MADE A DEPUTY PREMIER AND SOVIET REPRESENTATIVE TO CEMA ON MARCH 16 WE NOTED (MOSCOW 3665) THAT HE MIGHT BE DROPPED FROM THE SECRETARIAT. IT MARKS A CLEAR DEMOTION FOR HIM. RUSAKOV, AGED 67, HAS RECENTLY SERVED

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AS BREZHNEV'S SENIOR AIDE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS. HE HAS ALSO HAD EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE WORKING CLOSELY WITH OTHER LEADERS, AMONG THEM KOSYGIN AND ANDROPOV. THIS REPRESENTS A DISTINCT PROMOTION FOR HIM.

5. AT THE PLENUM BREZHNEV DELIVERED THE MAJOR SPEECH, WHICH WAS DEVOTED TO THE NEW DRAFT CONSTITUTION. BREZHNEV SPOKE BOTH AS GENERAL SECRETARY AND AS CHAIRMAN OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION. HE EXPLAINED THE REASONS FOR THE ADOPTION OF A NEW CONSTITUTION (THE PRESENT ONE IS THE STALIN CONSTITUTION OF 1936) AND IMPLIED THAT THE NEW CONSTITUTION WOULD BE ADOPTED IN THIS 60TH JUBILEE YEAR. THE PLENUM APPROVED THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION AND ALSO APPROVED A DECISION TO OPEN THE DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION AT THE SUPREME SOVIET SESSION.

6. THE PLENUM APPROVED A REPORT BY SUSLOV ON  
THE TEXT AND MUSIC OF THE SOVIET NATIONAL ANTHEM.  
(THE ANTHEM HAS NOT BEEN SUNG FOR MANY YEARS SINCE  
THE OLD TEXT IS A GLORIFICATION OF STALIN.)  
MATLOCK

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009